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DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 1-18 JUNE 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas STELZER (Austria)

Addendum

CHAPTER III. COUNTRY, INTERCOUNTRY AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

C. Arab States

1. Country programmes

Bahrain

1. The resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Bahrain (DP/CP/BAH/5), with resources from cost-sharing by the Government estimated at $10 million. He highlighted three main areas of concentration: economic management through strengthening of planning institutions to prepare a long-term perspective for a diversified economy; protection of the environment and management of natural resources; and the establishment of development strategy for human resources to help implement the policy of Bahrainization.

2. The representative of Bahrain expressed the full support of his Government for the programme, which was prepared with the active participation of the ministries and departments concerned. He also explained the reasons for the delay in the preparation of the country programme and in particular the difficulties arising from the implementation of the net contributor status provisions contained in Governing Council decision 85/16 of 29 June 1985 and the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economies of the region.

3. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Bahrain.

Kuwait

4. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), introduced the fifth country programme for Kuwait (DP/CP/KUW/5 and Corr.1). The resources were estimated at $15 million, representing 100 per cent cost-sharing. The main areas of concentration were human resources development; development planning and public management; and environment and natural resources management.

5. The representative of Kuwait expressed the importance Kuwait attached to the programme, pointing to the size of the programme compared with the previous one, which had $3.9 million in resources. She asked that UNDP intercede with the executing agencies to help improve the timeliness and quality of their inputs. She also asked that a post of Deputy Resident Representative be financed by UNDP, as stipulated by Governing Council decision 91/29 of 25 June 1991, in view of the size of the programme.

6. Delegations noted the programme's emphasis on the management and planning needs of the country, and were pleased to see the increasing role of UNDP in providing the level and type of expertise required to respond to the country's specific needs. Delegations asked for clarification on the role of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in coordinating the various kinds of technical cooperation in Kuwait. An inquiry was also made as to whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had opened an office in Kuwait.

7. In reply, the Assistant Administrator pointed out that following the Gulf crisis, the Resident Coordinator's office was closed and was being reopened in stages. There was currently a UNDP Resident Representative but not a Resident Coordinator. He expressed hope that the Resident Coordinator's office would be functioning fully in the near future. As to the post of Deputy Resident Representative, he said he would pursue the matter with the departments concerned.

8. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Kuwait.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

9. Introducing the fifth country programme for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (DP/CP/LIB/5), with a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $2.4 million and estimated cost-sharing of $38 million, the Resident Representative said that the country programme reflected the priorities which were outlined in the country's comprehensive mobilization plan. Those were: (a) human resource development and capacity-building; (b) economic diversification; (c) rehabilitation and maintenance of capital assets; (d) management of the environment; and (e) transfer of technology and scientific research. He noted that the programme had been the result of intensive consultations.

10. The strategy proposed for the country programme aimed to reduce the reliance of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on oil energy and to create long-term economic growth in other sectors. The programme would also help to build management capacity and ensure a more optimal use of human, capital and

financial resources to achieve a more diversified economic base. Areas such as national training to reduce dependency on expatriates was also given due attention. The country programme had placed emphasis on the preservation of the environment by creating an appropriate strategy to that effect. In addition to the main areas of concentration, the programme would also pay appropriate attention to such issues as strengthening the role of women and promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). The national execution modality would receive due attention in close collaboration with all institutions of the United Nations system.

11. Delegations noted that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya faced a number of serious problems. UNDP assistance was essential to meet the needs of the country. The Government was financing 90 per cent of the programme, an indication of their cooperation with UNDP. The country's development policies were in harmony with UNDP thematic priorities. The representative of Libya expressed appreciation for UNDP assistance in preparing the fifth country programme and stated that the Government attached great importance to its cooperation with UNDP. With its small population the country needed skills and technical expertise. It would continue to cooperate with UNDP in all areas of mutual interest such as combating desertification and enhancing human resources. He also noted UNDP support for combating the screwworm and stated that those efforts had had widespread benefits in the region. The fifth country programme was a balanced and objective document and national authorities would make every effort to implement the programme.

12. The Resident Representative thanked all countries for their assistance to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its efforts to eradicate the screwworm. He noted that the country also enjoyed assistance from bilateral donors ~~in~~ such sectors as the protection of environment, women in development and management of water resources.

13. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Qatar

14. The third country programme for Qatar (DP/CP/QAT/3 and Corr.1), with a net IPF of $69,000 and $10 million in cost-sharing was presented by the Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAS. The four areas of technical cooperation were (a) the development of human resources; (b) improving economic policy-making; (c) planning and management; and (d) sustainable environment and natural resources development.

15. The representative of Qatar expressed his country's appreciation for the cooperation provided by UNDP and the executing agencies, especially for training. He added that his country looked forward to the implementation of the country programme and the attainment of its important development objectives.

16. The Assistant Administrator noted with gratitude Qatar's satisfaction with UNDP cooperation, particularly since it was a net contributor country.

17. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for Qatar.

2. Case-by-case approvals: Iraq

18. The Chairman brought to the attention of the Committee a note by the Administrator on case-by-case project approval in Iraq (DP/1993/71), in which the Governing Council was informed of the Administrator's intention to approve projects in Iraq on a case-by-case basis, in view of the prevailing situation, using as a frame of reference the cooperation programme of the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme in Iraq.

19. The Committee took note of the Administrator's intention to continue to approve projects in Iraq on a case-by-case basis.